

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04726 250049Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5287

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 4726

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR MILI MOPS LE IS

SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON

REF: (A) STATE 230554, (B) TEL AVIV 7199, (C) BEIRUT 4725

1. AS INSTRUCTED REF A, WE DID NOT REPEAT NOT TELL BOUTROS ABOUT ISRAELI STATEMENT THAT "NEGOTIATIONS WILL BEGIN ...". WE HAVE NOW SEEN REF B STATEMENT THAT "WITH THE ENTRY INTO EFFECT OF THE CEASEFIRE, NEGOTIATIONS WILL START ON A PERMANENT ARRANGEMENT TO ESTABLISH PEACEFUL CONDITIONS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON AND ON THE NORTHERN BORDER OF ISRAEL", WHICH WE HAD NOT RPT NOT RECEIVED WHEN I TALKED TO BOUTROS. HE HAS NOT RPT NOT THEREFORE ACCEPTED THIS "CONDITION" IN AGREEING TO SEEK PLO CONCURRENCE IN THE CEASE FIRE AND WE SHOULD MAKE SURE THAT ISRAELIS KNOW THIS WHEN A TIME FOR THE CEASE FIRE IS FINALLY AGREED ON. OTHERWISE, WE WILL IN EFFECT BE TELLING THE ISRAELIS THAT THE LEBANESE HAVE AGREED TO SOMETHING THEY KNOW NOTHING ABOUT.

2. CONTINUED ISRAELI EMPHASIS ON NEGOTIATIONS AFTER CEASE FIRE IS DISTURBING. WE HAVE PERHAPS INVITED THIS BY NOT TRANSMITTING TO THEM BOUTROS'S RATHER FIRM COMMENTS ON THIS IDEA REPORTED IN BEIRUT 4660, COMMENTS HE REPEATED TO ME ON SEPT 23.

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3. WE SUGGEST THAT AS SOON AS WITHDRAWAL IS COMPLETED WE INFORM ISRAELIS OF GOL POSITION ON THIS ISSUE; I.E., THAT DISCUSSIONS CAN ONLY BE AT TECHNICAL LEVEL WITHIN ILMAC CONTEXT AND CENTERED ON FACILITATING ENTRY OF LEBANESE TROOPS INTO THE SOUTH. IF WE UNDERSTAND ISRAELI POSITION CORRECTLY, THIS IS NOT WHAT THEY HAVE IN MIND. THEY WANT TO NEGOTIATE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL ARMED PALES-

TINIANS TO THE NORTH OF THE LITANI. PALESTINIANS WILL CERTAINLY NOT BUY THIS IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. THIS IS VITAL ISSUE FOR THEM AND PUSHING SARKIS TO PRODUCE SUCH WITHDRAWAL NOW WILL PRECIPITATE A CRISIS HERE AND IN OUR RELATIONS.

4. AS FOR INFORMING LEBANESE, SUGGEST WE WAIT TO SEE ISRAELI REACTION TO LEBANESE POSITION AFTER WE HAVE CONVEYED IT. PERHAPS DEPARTMENT OFFICERS CAN DISCUSS WITH BOUTROS IN U.S. WE SUGGEST DELAY BECAUSE BOUTROS IS LIKELY TO BE JUSTIFIABLY ANGRY IF HE LEARNS WE DID NOT CONVEY HIS VIEWS ON SUBJECT TO ISRAELIS.
PARKER

SECRET

NNN

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